

UNCLASSIFIED No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/06 : LOC-HAK-248-1-14-0

SECTION 2 OF 5

TOHAK 151

DELIVER O.O.B.

TO WINSTON LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER

INDOCHINA

PEACE TALKS.

CRONKITE NOTED THERE WERE MORE TALKS AND MORE OPTIMISM.

HAK/THO MET AND ALTHO THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF WHERE THEY STAND

THERE WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A FLURRY OF TALKS. COLLINGWOOD

REPORTED THAT THE TALKS ARE TAKING ON AIR OF URGENCY W/3 MEETINGS

SCHEDULED AT 3 LEVELS. MEETINGS ARE CONSISTENT W/WHAT WILL HAPPEN

IF THE 2 SIDES WERE PREPARING TO WIND UP TALKS, SAID COLLINGWOOD,

BUT IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN AN AGREEMENT IS IN SIGHT. RUMORS

ARE FLYING THAT THE END IS IN SIGHT W/PORTER AT SESSIONS FOR

1ST TIME. THERE WERE MORE UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES: MESSENGERS

TRAVELED IN AND OUT OF MEETING; IT LOOKED LIKE CHAMPAGNE WAS

SERVED, AND HAK SAID GOODBYE TO THE BUTLER. COLLINGWOOD

CAUTIONED THAT IT IS EASY TO READ TOO MUCH INTO THESE ACTIONS

BUT IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR SOME TIME THAT IF IT WAS UP TO

HAK-THO AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED EASILY. ONE NEARLY WAS

REACHED IN OCT, ONLY TO BE DELAYED BY THE MINOR PARTIES IN-

VOLVED. AGREEMENT MAY STILL BE A WAYS OFF BUT THE DRAFTING EXPERTS

WON'T BE DRAFTING NOTHING. TALKS WILL END SOON, CONCLUDED

COLLINGWOOD, AND MAY END W/AN AGREEMENT. CRONKITE ADDED THAT

STATE SOURCES SAY THERE IS SCANT CHANCE FOR A SETTLEMENT IN TIME

TO BRING THE BOYS HOME FOR XMAS.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

BUT NO ONE CLOSE TO TALKS WILL SAY HOW LONG THAT STAG WILL LAST, THO WASHINGTON DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY AGREEMENT COULD BE AS EARLY AS WED. ASIAN DIPLOMATS, SAID VALERIANI, SAY THIEU WILL ACCEPT AGREEMENT IN PRACTICE IN ORDER TO AVOID SPLIT W/WASH., BUT THIEU WON'T SIGN TO SHOW DISSATISFACTION W/IT. WH WOULDN'T COMMENT ON SPECULATION, SAYS VALERIANI, WHO NOTED SOURCES SAID PESSIMISTIC PRESS REPORTS WERE OFF THE MARK. VALERIANI CONCLUDED W/NOTE OF NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON TALKS AND SPECULATIVE THEORY RN WILL ANNOUNCE SETTLEMENT.

NOTING PORTER'S PRESENCE, NBC'S DOBYNS SAID THO IT WAS 1ST TIME HE'S KNOWN TO HAVE ATTENDED PRIVATE SESSION, US DELEGATION DECLINED TO COMMENT ON FACT. NOTING "INCREASINGLY FAMILIAR" SCENE OF "WARM" GREETINGS AS HAK/SULLIVAN/PORTER GREETED NVN, DOBYNS SAID SUCH GREETINGS HAVE HELPED NREATE AIR OF OPTIMISM OF TALKS, AND THO NOBODY CAME OUTSIDE DURING SESSION, THE WAS A "GREAT DEAL" OF MOVEMENT VISIBLE INSIDE. OVER FILM OF CORDIAL NVN DEPARTURE, DOBYNS SAID APPARENT HAK-THO FRIENDLINESS SEEMS TO BE A STATEMENT OF ITS OWN. DOBYNS SAID THE PORTER-THUY MEETING WILL BE A 1ST, AND THO NO ONE WOULD SAY WHAT SUBJECT IS, A US SOURCE MADE IT CLEAR IT COULD ONLY BE INTERPRETED AS A GOOD SIGN. PARIS SPECULATION IS AGREEMENT COULD COME IN A FEW DAYS, CONCLUDED DOBYNS.

ABC'S CIOFFI SAID DESPITE REPORTS TALKS ARE HOPELESSLY STALEMATED, THE NET HAS LEARNED "DEFINITIVELY" THAT IT'S NOT TRUE, AND THO NEGOTIATIONS ARE DIFFICULT AND SLOW, THEY ARE MAKING PROGRESS. ABC HILIGHTED BREAK IN "SERIOUS ROUTINE" AS HAK, ON FILM, NOTED NET'S MIKE HANGING FROM 3RD STORY LEVEL OF BUILDING AND ASKED IF ABC HAD MIKE IN MEETING ROOM YET. CIOFFI SAYS THERE IS NO REASON FOR PESSIMISM AND THE PARTIES DON'T EXPECT AGREEMENT IN

NOTHING IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED ARE FLATLY DENIED, SAID CIOFFI,

W/ SOURCES SAYING BOTH SIDES ARE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TALKS IN  
GOOD FAITH.... AP NOTES THE SESSIONS OCCURRED AMID "SOME INDICATIONS  
THEY MAY BE AT A TURNING POINT."

NBC NOTED CHOU SAID AN AGREEMENT MIGHT COME IN 2-3 DAYS...  
UPI SAYS THE REPORT COINCIDED W/WASH DISPATCHES IMPLYING THERE  
HAD BEEN MORE PROGRESS IN TALKS THAN INDICATED IN PESSIMISTIC REPORTS  
THOUGHT TO HAVE ORIGINATED FROM VC....US OFFICIALS ALSO DISCOUNTED  
SOME REPORTS FROM PARIS THAT NO GAINS HAD BEEN MADE IN PAST WEEK,  
BUT ACKNOWLEDGED IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO EXPECT AN IMMINENT  
BREAKTHRU WHICH WOULD WRAP UP AGREEMENT.

LE MONDE QUOTED SAIGON SOURCES AS PREDICTING A CEASE-FIRE BY  
DEC. 20. IT WOULD COME INTO FORCE PROVISIONALLY BEGINNING W/A  
XMAS TRUCE AND LAST AS LONG AS COMMUNISTS OBSERVE IT. IN RETURN  
FOR THIEU'S ACCEPTANCE, RN HAS PROMISED TO HOLD A MID-PACIFIC  
SUMMIT, TO CONTINUE AID AND TO GUARANTEE US MILITARY INTERVENTION  
IN CASE OF A "FLAGRANT BREACH" OF THE CEASE-FIRE.

FOREIGN MINISTER LAM SEID SVN WILL ACCEPT AN AGREEMENT ONLY  
IF IT INCLUDES AN EXPLICIT PROVISION REQUIRING NVA W/DRAWALS....  
MME. BINH, CLARIFYING FRI. STATEMENT THAT SEEMED TO MOVE TOWARD  
A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE, LAST WEEK SAID SHE HAD BEEN MISINTERPRETED  
RE: NVA FREEDOM TO RETURN TO NVN AND WAS NOT IMPLYING A COM-  
MUNIST OFFER OF A TACIT DEMOBILIZATION AND W/DRAWAL.

FRANCE DENIED AN AURORE REPORT THAT ITS TROOPS MIGHT BE IN-  
CLUDED IN INTERNAT'L CEASEFIRE FORCE.

THE OMENS WERE AMBIGUOUS, SAYS TIME, AS THE "SEEMINGLY  
INTERMINABLE" TALKS WENT ON. BUT THERE WAS "DEFINITE PROGRESS"  
REPORTED IN "THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDLINESS." BUT A MAIN  
US CONCERN REMAINS HOW CAN THE COMMUNISTS BE PREVENTED FROM  
SEIZING CONTROL OF GVN AND WHILE AN ACCORD "ONCE AGAIN SEEMED  
CLOSE, ITS DURABILITY, AS WELL AS THE